



[about us](#) | [community](#) | [news](#) | [media](#) |
[administration](#)

**SQUAMISH NATION
NETWORK**

[community]



[Calendar](#) | [Business Directory](#) | [Sports
Communication for the Nation](#) | [People & Events](#)

people & events

> [MORE
PICTURES](#)

> [EULOGY](#) |
Wendy John
Speaks at the
Memorial Service

> [TRIBUTES](#) |
Major media
outlets and others
honour Joe's
passing

> [SHARE](#) | If
you'd like to add
your thoughts
about Chief
Mathias, [email us
here](#) --we will
post as many
messages as
possible

> [SCHOLARSHIP
FUND](#)



IN MEMORIAM

Chief Joseph (Joe) William Mathias
November 12, 1943 — March 10, 2000

To the Squamish People, In Memory of my Son-in-Law, Chief Mathias

I am looking at a photo on my desk. It shows a narrow suspension footbridge spanning a frothy stream rushing noisily to the ocean. The two banks of the stream, though somewhat different, are beautiful each in its own way.

In the middle of the bridge stand two happy, smiling people, hugging each other. How symbolic: the suspension bridge straining to span the chasm, to bring the two banks of the stream together so that we can explore and discover the beauty of both sides. After all, the same power created both. The two people in the photo have been trying to bring two cultures together. So far as I am concerned, they succeeded admirably.

Great Chief Joseph Mathias! Our Joe, clad in jeans and sneakers -- the signature smile on his face! -- and Lisa are the two people on the bridge. I took the photo on February 12 this year, when we were on a hike along the West coast of Vancouver Island. On the way back we saw an eagle swoosh overhead and vanish into the forest. It is a young eagle, said Joe, you can tell from its feathers. It's going home.

Now Joe has gone home to be with his ancestors. But even as he left us, he brought us together. Words are useless in trying to express the warmth, affection, hospitality shown us by his people. The mere overflow of the esteem and love with which his spirit was honoured and his memory celebrated engulfed and overwhelmed us.

And it was all from the heart.

In meeting your people and getting a glimpse at your culture and traditions, we learned much that was good. It was very good. We need to learn much more about each other. But already my view of aboriginal civilization and culture has changed unalterably.

Our lives were enriched by knowing Joe. We are thankful to our daughter Lisa for having brought Joe into our lives, even for too short a time and on too few occasions. We thank Joe Mathias' many relatives, friends and associates. Not least of all, we thank the Squamish people.

Though he is gone, his memory, his legacy, his example is with us all. And they will endure.

.



[ABOUT US](#) | [COMMUNITY](#) | [NEWS](#) | [MEDIA](#) | [ADMINISTRATION](#)

© Squamish Nation, 2000-2001. Last Update: May, 2001
[Feedback](#)